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APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE		FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
09/963,909 09/26/2001		Christian Lorenz	TRW(ASG)5930 9434		
26294	7590 12/13/2005		EXAMINER		
	SUNDHEIM, COVEL	кім, сно	KIM, CHONG HWA		
526 SUPERIOR AVENUE, SUITE 1111 CLEVEVLAND, OH 44114			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			3682		

DATE MAILED: 12/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary Examiner			Applicati	on No.	Applicant(s)				
Chong H. Kim Ch	Office Action Summer		09/963,9	09	LORENZ, CHRISTIAN				
- The MALING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address — Period for Repty A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extendinos for time may be available under the provisions of 2 FCR 1.13(b), in no overs, towers, may angly be timely filled. If NO period for redy is specified above, the meiatium statutory period will epply and will expire SIX (b) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. Fallura to report is specified above, the meiatium statutory period will expire any six of the mailing date of this communication. Fallura to report with the set or examined period for regive its specified above, the meiatium statutory period will expire any six of the mailing date of this communication, even if emaly filled, may reduce any secure typeriod may reduce any event period the statutory period will expire any six of the mailing date of this communication, even if emaly filled, may reduce any event period to the specification is provided by the ST CR1. 17(4). Status 1) □ Responsive to communication(s) filled on 22 November 2005. 20 □ This action is FINAL. 20) □ This action is non-final. 3) □ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Exp parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) □ Claim(s) 1.6.9-14.16 and 17 is/are rejected. 7) □ The drawing(s) filled on is objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held	Office Action Summary			•	Art Unit				
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				6) Other:					

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on Nov 22, 2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- 3. Claims 1, 4, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahara et al., U.S. Patent 4,468,978.

Takahara et al. shows, in Figs. 3-6, a vehicle steering wheel comprising a hub 20, a steering wheel rim 10 arranged radially distanced from the hub, and at least one spoke 30 having at least one spoke section, the steering wheel rim and the spoke comprising a structure, the structure having inner 12 and outer 16 parts completely spaced apart such that the inner and outer parts do not directly contact each other, and a vibration-decoupling means 14 for isolating vibration and bridging a distance between the inner and outer parts, so that forces from one of the

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inner and outer parts are transmitted to the other one of the inner and outer parts via only the vibration-decoupling means, the vibration-decoupling means acting in all directions and isolating the steering wheel rim vibrations from at least one section of the spoke, the inner and outer parts being connected to each other by only the vibration-decoupling means and being otherwise completely disconnected, wherein the vibration-decoupling means is formed by a bearing; wherein the vibration-decoupling means is elastic, and the inner and outer parts are not integrally formed with each other.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 2 and 3 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chong H. Kim whose telephone number is (571) 272-7108. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday - Friday; 9:00 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on (571) 272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

chk

December 9, 2005

CHONG H. KIM